

AGRICULTURAL LICENSING RENEWAL BEGINNING WITH THE 2004 CROP YEARS – EASTERN/MIDDLE TENNESSEE VALLEY – BOONE, NORRIS, CHEROKEE, DOUGLAS, SOUTH HOLSTON, FONTANA, FORT LOUDOUN, MELTON HILL, TELLICO, AND WATTS BAR RESERVOIRS AND CLINCHPORT RIVER ACCESS SITE IN ANDERSON, CAMPBELL, CLAIBORNE, GRAINGER, HAMBLLEN, HAWKINS, JEFFERSON, SEVIER, SULLIVAN, UNION, WASHINGTON, BLOUNT, LOUDON, MONROE, RHEA, ROANE, TROUSDALE AND WILSON COUNTIES, TENNESSEE; SCOTT AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, VIRGINIA; AND SWAIN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA – REEVALUATION OF THE 2004 FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Purpose and Need

On January 26, 2004, Environmental Policy and Planning (EP&P) completed a SEA and signed a FONSI for the renewal of agricultural use licenses on 118 tracts of TVA land in the eastern Tennessee Valley.

On April 20, 2004, based on negotiations with the current licensees, Watts Bar-Clinch Watershed Team resource specialists requested that portions of 2 tracts on Norris Reservoir be licensed for use as pasture instead of hay as previously assessed in the SEA. On Tract NR-CA-22 (serial number), which totals 22 acres, 4 acres would be used for pasture and 18 acres would be used for hay. On Tract NR-CA-32 (serial number), which totals 4 acres, 2 acres would be used for pasture and 2 acres would be used for hay.

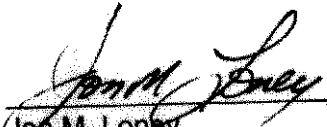
Impacts Assessment

These 2 tracts were included in a 1999 review, the results of which were incorporated by reference in the January 26, 2004, final SEA/FONSI on licensing renewal. Based on a cultural resource staff reassessment conducted on April 22, no effect on historic properties would result from changing the proposed use of these 2 tracts of TVA land. Based on field review, land use history of these tracts and database examination, resources specialists determined no wetland or endangered or threatened plant or animal resources would be impacted. No other significant environmental resources would be adversely affected.

Conclusion and Findings

Based on analysis above and in the SEA as well as TVA's regular review and monitoring of its agricultural licensing program, TVA concludes that this minor change to the agricultural licensing program to allow portions of 2 tracts to be licensed for pasture

would not be a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the environment. Accordingly, an environmental impact statement is not required.


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Date